INTERVIEW WITH MRS. BEECH AND HUTCHINGS

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Conducted by:

Dr. James L. Dodson

--and--

Miss Paula Boyer

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Bird chirping in the background.

Dodson: Now I wonder if you ladies would give us your names and tell us how long you've lived here in the valley.

Hutchings: My name is Marie Hutchings and I've been in San Fernando since 1913. I was married to a native of San Fernando, born in San Fernando, in 1901, at the corner of Third and Brand Blvd.

Dodson: Then that means that his family had come here even earlier. Is that right?

Hutchings: His family came here in late 1800 and they crossed the country in a covered wagon. He had one aunt and was born on the way out here. And they located in Downey. And then they came to San Fernando, in 1888.

Dodson: So, your family has actually lived here since 1888.

Hutchings: Yes, my husband's family. I came in 1913 from Illinois.

Dodson: I see. Mrs. Beech, would you,

Beech: Uh, I'm Lorraine Beech. And I came out in in 1915 with my folks from Indiana. My oldest brother had followed his employer from Merring, Indiana in 1912 and that's why we came out. And then eventually, settled, we my mother went back and forth to our home in Indiana and then we settled in 1915 and my father had to come because of his health. He had to be outside from then on. He has asthma. He had worked for twenty-five years in one place in Indiana. So, they said that he could not work inside anymore. So, we settled here and uh, now that was in 1915. I went to all the schools in San Fernando. In fact the oldest school, now wait a minute, the oldest grammar school that I went to first was uh on Fifth St. in San Fernando. The newer one was eventually built on Maclay Ave. And I went through the San Fernando schools, the San Fernando grammar school, high school. Then of course I lived in San Fernando, to go college at San Jose. Came back and married here to a native's son. And my children were all born in San Fernando. And I of course will continue to live here probably the rest

of my life. But so many things have happened here that I would have to really be asked what had taken place. I tell my grandchildren I think that everything has happened here where I live now that uh you know that you are more conscious of what happens here. The valley was uh, well, I'll tell you what, I drove a Model T car when I graduated from high school. The intersection of San Fernando Road, this was in 1922, I drove it from Lankershim to San Fernando, but at the intersection of San Fernando Rd. and Lankershim Blvd. the lights went out in the Model T. Now I drove through to San Fernando, from that junction without any lights. So, there right there is an interesting thing that you certainly couldn't do it now. But uh, but things, uh, of course I think our valley stayed beautiful, clear, smogless, until the influx of people after WWII, when it really developed. I think San Fernando was, I can't remember it when it wasn't like it is now. It really is, well, we went to Lankershim to buy fruit, it was all orchards there. And that..

Hutchings: San Fernando out toward the Mission. All that acreage out there I think the beauty of San Fernando, uh San Fernando Valley has been lost, I mean the natural beauty, because uh you go for miles and miles and see that citrus groves and beautiful orange trees and smell the orange blossoms. And it was just beautiful to drive up, now it's all man made beauty, condominimums, apartments, and houses and uh, well, it's beautiful. It's manmade, but it isn't God's beauty, you know.

Dodson: Do you remember about what the population of the Valley was when you came in 1913?

Hutchings: No, I think it was about 2500. But, it scattered, there were so many ranches and everything and the valley, uh across San Fernando itself is only a mile square. And the surrounding country of the valley took in a lot of farms and ranches. Now our ranch was three miles North of San Fernando. Don's folks took it up when he was twelve

for, uh well we went for joy rides. We called them joy rides.

Marie: Go for picnics. Go for picnics and take a picnic lunch. I have some pictures here of Pacoima Canyon before they built the dam up there. And, uh, uh, we took a picnic lunch and water'd come down over the rocks and we'd go for rides. And we did much simpler things for pleasure in those days than they do now.

Dodson: Did they find they gave as much pleasure as you TV does now?

Marie: Well, yes I guess. Well.

Chuckle. It leaves fond memories, anyway

Lorraine: We wouldn't be happy with it now of course because we have experienced television. I think that's why the visiting We don't do up to somebody else's house unless invited for dinner. There's no drop in anymore.

Marie: No. you have to call before you come. HA HA

Dodson: I think that is a real loss though, I agree with you.

Lorraine: It is, it really it because that was all we had. You do with what you have, you know. We had radios finally came. My brother had a crystal set. Did you ever listen to a crystal set? Well you've seen one. Yea and uh, it's just a little board with a wire and what kind of crystal?

Dodson: I don't know what kind, but there was a little crystal and a little thing that touched it.

Lorraine: There was no speaker and how did we hear it? But uh

Dodson: You had earphones.

Lorraine: Earphones, that't right. So then we'd just take this little, this little fine needle or had a point on it and you'd just run it over that crystal pretty soon you'd hear something in these earphones you'd get a st..we didn't know anything about stations, you know. But uh that was interesting. Anything that we did I remember playing with my uh niece's and friend's and we'd put on shows. They all put on shows now, of course some of them I think do. But that's all we had to do, dress up in our mother's clothes and put on I was Anita somebody and somebody, uh you know, they all took names of movie actors. So, and my uh of course we were pretty well coached on names. My brother had the first movie theater in San Fernando.

years old, a homestead up there. A hundred and eighty acres. And, we lived up there until we moved to San Diego in 1927. When he was manager of Sunkist. But, uh he moved up there and they took the sagebrush and I was just telling Lorraine. I think maybe we were the poorest. We didn't have very much money in those days, but I think it's some of the happiest times in my married life. Because my friends would come up there and they'd come into the field and hunt rabbit. And then we'd have lunch and everything spend the whole day together. And, uh I know our oldest boy was born while we were up there and he used to ride around in the wagon with his grandfather when they picked the apples. And I think it was one of the happiest times.

Dodson: I think that's probably true, I think people nowadays don't realize that it was possible to have a good time with the sort of environment that existed then.

Lorraine: And I don't know, nowadays, of course we enjoyed uh card games. Different ones come in the evenings and we played cards and have sandwiches or something you know and it was fun. Now, with TV there's not so much visiting and socializing like we had in those days. All of my, both of my boys, I had two boys and both of my boys and my husband and my grandchildren have graduated from San Fernando High School.

Dodson: Was there much settlement in the Southern part of the Valley when you came out or was it primarily here in the Northern part around San Fernando?

Marie: Well, the part that I know, as I said it was right here in San Fernando, was alot of ranches and everything but my contact with people was all right in the city of San Fernando.

Lorraine: I think we remember the town of Lankershim, No. Hollywood, and Burbank and Glendale. Glendale is an old city. The others that we call Sherman Oaks, Studio City, those were of course out in the weed patches, you know. Well, let me put it this way, that when I had my grandchildren here and I'll have to tell you that only place that we have for a quiet ride is up to Glen Haven, a cemetary! Up there in Lopez Canyon. Now, you don't stay on the highways

Oh, he did? Where was that?

Lorraine: It was on First Street.

Marie: When it was Luca (SP?) Furniture Store and then they made the theater and uh silent pictures. I remember we went to see Perils of Pauline.

Much Laughter

After they left then it was turned into a skating rink.

Lorraine: Well then the Sun office was next to it.

Marie: Next to it, right.

How much was the admission then?

Marie: I can't tell dear.

Lorraine: Probably I recall...

Marie: Ten Cents!

Lorraine: Then our next theatre was down on uh when I was in high school and my brother then did not own that was the old Coty Theatre. And uh before graduation and in my last year of high school I uh played in the orchestra there. And uh that was on Celis and Brand. And uh we had a piano and uh, oh let me tell you this. We had a piano and Mrs. Ghoul played the trombone.

Lorraine: I played played the violin.

Marie: Melody Clint played the piano.

Lorraine: No, it was Mrs. Filbert who played the piano.

Marie: Rosie Clint it was.

Lorraine: Well anyway, I ruined my eyes memorizing the music. You'd have to look over the pictures you know, and uh I was near sighted after that. But uh you know and then we would sit and go through the music and before the picture started, then the audience would come and there was a lady that lived down on South Brand, quite a large woman. What was her name, Marie? Uh, anyway her name just, you knew her. When she uh, we'd all know, We'd say oh Mrs. So-in-so, she's here now, because we could hear the seat creep when she'd sit down. We know everybody as they came in, how, you know not everybody, but that was one person. And uh, those were the experiences,you see you take what there is for your pleasure and do with it. Just like all the people even in the eighteen hundreds, they made their own. But things are

just furnished now to uh, for pleasure, for children to play. But I just think that all those things were uh, Why do we remember them so well, I don't believe that we will remember any of these things we see on TV.

Marie: I can remember my husband played first base on the baseball team. And Sunday afternoons, you know, we'd always have to go the baseball game and uh then, uh Mission Blvd. Uh, now, it's all paved now, but in those days, uh we lived down on Hollister Street just off of Mission Rd. And they used to have horse races, down on Mission Rd. and we'd all go out the Road to watch them ride the horses. And that was interesting too.

Dodson: You mentioned playing in the orchestra, can you tell us how the music was adapted to those silent pictures, I wandered about that.

Marie: Donna Pianist (SP?) usually picked those out, she had them all memorized. We all had them memorized. Eventually you know, I can't quite remember any of the selection but we just played. I tell you, I don't believe it would pass right now that orchestra. Ha Ha !!! But it did it, it did it to music. And of course we would get excited. I have and idea that we watching the picture and that we knew what we were going to play or she told us what to play. We probably just played just like the movie or just matched it. I earned all of my high school graduation clothes. My mother made all of my things then, they used to sew so much more. But uh, those things stay with you, they just stay with you, so much more than anything that you do now. And I wonder if our children, what they'll remember, what we have remembered. Uh, about things and having to make ado. And when you go through things like marrying at in 1927 and having the crash come in 29 and losing property and not having anything. But you have to go through with it. Oh I feel sorry for the young people, what they have to go through with now, you know. And I think, you know this thought comes to my mind, their young! They go through it you see, they stagger through. And you lived through and you didn't think

anything about it, you just took it.

Paula: I think there is alot of a return. There is alot of young people interested in returning back to a simpler life. And moving out of the city.

Marie: I've even noticed that in their fashions. It seems as though the old fashions, the clothes are going back, you know the sleeves and the Colonel dresses, long dresses.

Paula: I think they really do want to return.

Lorraine: My question is, are they going to get the hats back? I doubt it.

Paula: I like hats, when I grew up you know back East, we had to have a hat on.

Lorraine: To church or a funeral, to church or a funeral, you'd never think twice about going to church or a funeral without a hat on.

Paula: Right, and my mom used to where gloves.

Marie: But nowadays, they don't. They're just more casual.

Dodson: I was going to ask you whether you thought the dress was more formal when you were a girl than it is now.

Marie: Yes, I do, I think in those days gloves and hats and the way we dressed, I think was more formal. Uh, I think they would be horrified if you went to a church service and seen people in pants like they do now. Now, it's common everyplace.

Lorraine: Which shows that isn't an all important thing, you know.

Marie: Your dress isn't.

Lorraine: You desire to be there and what you give has nothing to do. You'd be the same person if you wore a bikini, for heavens sakes, you know I mean. You're the same person. But there is a certain amount, there is just so far we will go but I have said since pants come in and pant suits. That they're much, if it's a matter of covering up you're much more covered than you are in a dress.

Marie: They're much more comfortable.

Lorraine: Judging from the front row in the church and in the theatre you could look down and see the women sitting with the dresses above their knees, you know.

Paula: This would be regressing, but before we got too much farther,

I wanted to ask how you ladies got out here from the midwest. And how was it like to, did you get here on the train and what was it like travelling all the way across country and how did you get into the valley? Did you come into Los Angeles and then ride a buggy out here, or what happened?

Lorraine Beech: It took us five days, I believe to come out. We went from Marion (SP?) to Chicago. My mother packed lunches in shoe boxes. We all took separate lunches for everyday, I don't know how it kept fresh. But, this is what she did. Sometimes she could afford a berth to sleep in other times it was a chair car. And she would go to the dining car but we couldn't, she couldn't seem to, I don't believe she could afford to take us for meals. But she'd go in and get coffee. But the first I came out, I came when I was nine to visit my brother and it took five days. I'm sure it was five days that it took. I was always sticking my head out of the window, you know. And coming out, the railroad track, or the route was we always came Santa Fe, I think, mostly. And it was winding and there were other times we could see the engines, we were in the middle, we could see both ends, if we were at the other end we could see the other end going around and going through tunnels. And I got a cinder.

Dodson: No, they used these diesel engines, which wouldn't be throwing out the cinders.

Lorraine Beech: Well, I got a cinder, a little cinder flew up in my eye. And it was there a couple days. I remember an elderly couple took me in their lap and I think she made a, twisted a handerchief and rubbed it over and got the cinder out. But uh, the uh, when we'd get out on the observation car, coming through Arizona, there's another thing that I can remember was a beautiful, beautiful sight. Uh, but uh, how long did it take you Marie to get out here, do you remember.

Marie Hutchings: We also came on the train and it took us five days and we came to Los Angeles and our grandparents met us there in a buggy. You know two seated. And we came out from there. Uh the uh, thing that strikes me most is we came

Lorraine: uh the Mississippi. We came the SP. And the Mississippi was on the rampage. And I never been so frightened when we had to cross on the ferry. To go across, uh you know. And that stands out in my memory as one of the things. And I'd seen the petrified forest of Arizona as a child, that struck me and the Indians sitting along the railroad track with their blanket and baskets you know. We stopped there for a little while. I think the train took on water or something and we got to see the Indians and quite a novelty.

Marie: What was the first thing that you remember coming into Los Angeles? Do you remember what impressed you?

Lorraine: No.

Marie: The orange groves did, I can remember the pungance. Uh pungancy the air, the orange blossoms. Now it must have been coming through Pasadena, I'm sure because we crossed the desert there were no orange trees, but coming into Los Angeles, the station. I can just see. Uh and we missed those as much do the pepper trees in San Fernando.

Paula: You had pepper trees?

Marie: We had a few.

Lorraine: Oh! The pepper trees! I thought they were dirty, but I loved the old pepper trees.

Marie: Oh, I did too.

Lorraine: The leaves looked like fern and the red berries and we

Marie: The streets were all

Lorraine: Just lined with pepper trees.

Paula: Are they the type of trees that drop that sap?

Marie: Not too much. There is a certain amount that come out, off the leaves, it seemed to me, I remember some sap there. Uh they dropped the berries all the time. But they were very graceful trees. And I don't think, I don't know what's become of them, because [illegible] I don't think they're a very brittle tree.

Lorraine: No, but the Eucalyptus, you couldn't grow a lawn under them they used to say.

Lorraine: You couldn't grow anything under them!

Marie: But they were beautiful, that's one thing I miss in San Fernando.

Dodson: Have most of those been cut down, since then?

Lorraine: Oh, yes.

Marie: I take walks with the children, grandchildren, and uh, once in awhile, I'll bet you that on this side of the North end of San Fernando, I don't believe that you can't find trees like these, when we take a walk, I find about six. But they're being cut down all the time. Is that progress?

Dodson: I think there's a little doubt as to what constitutes progress. Well is there anyplace in the San Fernando where we have any groves of walnut trees or olive trees still standing.

Lorraine: In the valley, or in San Fernando?

Dodson: Well, in this part of the valley.

Marie: No there were no walnut groves, this is not walnut grove country.

Lorraine: In Simi Valley.

Marie: Well, then in Northridge, see there was a big uh walnut packing.

Lorraine: Yea, then they moved to San Fernando Valley because of the water level was getting different or something.

Dodson: Probably lower.

Lorraine: Lower, you see.

Dodson: UM UM...

Marie: But they were not producing, they were birch. As I remember them talking about that was the first thing and then we'd have very very hot spells after the, that was formed and burned and you know you've seen them, just turn black and that is why they moved their packing company, why they discontinued. It's hard to remember when there were groves over there. There's alot of walnut groves up on 126, now off of 5 in the Santa Paula area.

Lorraine: I just came back from two weeks above Santa Barbara. And the hills, you know, the trees, the walnut trees, and citrus, and there's lots of new citrus.

Paula: Is that alot like the San Fernando Valley?

Lorraine: Like San Fernando used to be.

Paula: Yea I wandered up there around..

Lorraine: And it's just beautiful up around Fillmore and Ojai.

Marie: That's another place that you can take a beautiful ride after you leave the highway on 126 and follow it clear

through to the coast. There is the Santa Paula now, but you can follow it. That's all groves and it's just a beautiful ride.

Dodson: That's an area I'm not familiar with myself.

Lorraine: It's just beautiful.

Marie: Cespe Creek is up there. I imagine that uh, well Cespe, I'm mentioning that because we used to fish, walk aside and fish and but it's all groves, filled with groves, and every kind of tree.

Lorraine: That's a beautiful drive. That's the way our valley used to be.

Marie: Well,then we have had of course, not in the vicinity of San Fernando, but right around have been olive trees. The largest grove in the world you know.

Lorraine: In Sylmar, and they made olive oil and packed the olives up there.

Dodson: Are there olive groves still left in the Sylmar area to your knowledge?

Lorraine: Well, there's some trees up there, but just on private property.

Marie: It's all been subdivided and the big packing house is here in San Fernando.

Lorraine: Muriel must have talked to you about Sylmar, didn't she, since her father was in the management.

Dodson: Since we're speaking of Sylmar, do you remember the old pioneer cemetry up there, Morningside, wasn't it called?

Lorraine: We were just talking about that!

Dodson: Well, I'd really like to have some information on it, can you tell me any of the families that were buried there?

Lorraine: Well, let me think. The Fosters, I can't uh. I know most of us that have had people up there Our folks have had the family buried there, but they didn't have care and it was sort of...

Marie: Well, it's uh vandalized now.

Dodson: I know it is, there are only a few stone left.

Marie: Did you read any of them?

Dodson: Yes, it seems to me there's one stone marked Peabody, does that family ring a bell?

Both ladies: Oh yes!!!

Lorraine: She was the one that does pictures, Cecil Peabody.

Marie: They lived on North Brand, which was McFarland St. McFarland, Cecil Peabody.

Lorraine: She used to give piano lessons too. She taught in the Methodist church, Sunday School.

Dodson: How long ago was then that her body was placed there, do you recall?

They are discussing privately.

Marie: It wouldn't be, uh, well she was older that Bertha Collins.

Lorraine: And Bertha Collins, were they....

tape went blank and we have no recording of the calculation.

Other side of tape.

Lorraine: Even though they tried it seemed as though, I can't imagine why people would wanna take the headstones and just turn em over and everything and they had an awful time. So, they were gonna try to get it fenced in, and uh, to try to preserve it because there was so many of the oldtimer, the old pioneers that was buried up there.

Dodson: Well, I would be very much interested in trying to find out which of the pioneers were there, but we've been unable to find any record of that.

Marie: I was telling Lorraine, today, I think that if you could contact Ethyl from Frasier. She's a very interested in the native daughters and she and Carolyn Riggs, were very interested and instrumental in getting that put under, makin a project from the Native Daughters to keep it um the lot cleared and getting it fenced. However, I don't know the finances and everything because the chain linked fence was kind of a problem and they were gonna have to raise funds, but my daughter-in-law, and I really do know that was a project.

Lorraine: I'll tell, I'll give you a reason why it's been successful, it's an isolated area and it's right near the hospital up there on Foothill, right on Foothill and Bledsoe, I believe it is. It's just a place for people who don't have anything more to do, they are mischievious, you know. They keep going in and just taking a toll of the place, that's why

it's never, I'm sure, that's been attempted lots of times. One of my uncles had buried one baby there. I think they removed it, so, she's right when she says they had removed some of them. But I think that's the whole problem. Have you been guided to...

Dodson: I was up there once or twice, yes. Now it seems rather small to me at present. I wonder if there are houses on what had once been part of the cemetary, do you know.

Lorraine: You know, you don't notice it when you go by. I go out that way sometimes.

Marie: There's not much activity now, even though, I don't think there's houses right there.

Lorraine: No, I don't think so.

Marie: Let's see, it was across from one of the hospitals, I believe one of the Veterans. I've never gone in to look it over, of course, we would recognize an awful lot of the names. Have you been guided toward EvelynFrazier on this.

Dodson: Yes.

Marie: So you've talked to her. So she should, did say any, mention it?

Dodson: No she wasn't able to give us any information about it all.

Lorraine: Oh, she wasn't?

Dodson: No, she uh. I was very anxious to find whether there was any record of the early burials there. It's my impression that there is, but she and Mrs. Regis (SP) are not very anxious to make that public.

Marie: They have the historical society down there, they meet in the old ....

Dodson: The Andres Pico Adobe, don't they?

Marie: I can't see why they would be that way. It's a matter of record, why would they want to hold that back?

Dodson: I don't exactly know the answer to that, but. At the present time, there only a few stones still standing up there. So we couldn't find out very much just by looking at the stone.

Lorraine: If we were up there, we would probably recognize some of them.

Marie: That's what I say, we would recognize them.

Lorraine: Uh Uh. But I haven't been up there, because we took ours out and Eva took hers out because as I say, it wasn't taken care of.

Marie: Well, it's like everything else, life goes on and every minute of your time is taken and these things are going just like our family, my husband's family have such color in theirs and I

taped some of the a one of his brothers. Now, he's still living, but of course he can't remember. But I'm glad I have that tape, because he was talking about his father being shipped out with a load of cattle he went with the cattle from the East and the things that he went through that was the time of the toot ferry's. I'll play that for you sometime. But, I don't uh, I can't get the rest of it out of him, and you see I was his sister-in-law and I want to get it through for my son. His, the father, now, my husband's father was the original agent for Granada Hills and he took 100 acres for commission. Which is Granada Hills now. That was a poultry colony at first and when we were first married. And you know those people solicited for hay and grain because my husband was in a feed store at the time, when we were first married and those people had saved their life's, the life savings went into those little farms there. It was a rabbit colony! And we tried to sell hay, grain. But I just want that those people just lost their life savings there, trying to make a go of a rabbit colony there, but uh that's a very interesting thing for someone out there in that area, but all those people are new. Mission Hills down here you see, that's all the people that have come from somewhere else and the influx happened when World War. Because San Fernando was nothing. There was no money to speak of. But after the aircraft....

Paula: This is after WWII?

Marie: WWII. Lockheed brought them in. People were leaving their children, the father was working in the day time, the mother was working the swing shift and the kids were goin...

Lorraine: Of course, when I went to work, I worked too. I never had had worked before and during the depression.

Marie: It saved, uh. Well, let's put it this way, we're built on a wartime basis here, that's uh, seems like we're, don't you think so. Things were down. But when they start a war, woooooo! But that's what built San Fernando is Lockheed and all and they come from every direction.

Dodson: Now, when you came here, was there very large Mexican population? or person's of Mexican descent?

rraine: Oh yes!!!

Marie: And it was all on the other side of the tracks.

Lorraine: That's right, on the other side of the tracks, the other side of San Fernando.

Marie: The white people, or the caucasions were all on this side and very few on the other side.

Dodson: Is that right, the railroad track was a sort of a dividing line?

Marie: Well, in the old stories you here across the tracks. It didn't mean the same, the Mexicans stayed down there and we stayed here and uh they were pretty rough down there, because do you remember the time that they were having so many killings and uh.....

Paula: What happened then?

Lorraine: It was like a Western story. No kiddin! They would have fights and they had these places and they would sell liquor and homemade, some of it wasn't too good. And they'd get into fights. Just knock down, drag out.

Marie: Well, now our police at one time, I remember I can't just remember what year I was married and had uh, so that was after, was in the thirties, I think, uh just one, when he was killed I believe, our police were afraid to go over there.

Lorraine: I don't blame em. That was on the other side of the tracks.

Paula: We heard that there was alot of people there on probation. Who would it be, it was the Federal government that came out and checked property for stills? Do you remember that?

Marie: Well, I don't think we had too many stills around here, do you?

Lorraine: No, no, it was mostly uh beer, I imagine.

Marie: It was bootleg beer, but they didn't, you know.

Lorraine: No, I don't think there was any stills.

Marie: That was when my husband was, now you talk about the kids having a time, what they did, when we have narcotics now. When my oldest, it was beer, that was the only thing, now I don't think he ever got into trouble with beer, but when Ted, before we were married, it was bootleg. That was in the early, middle twenties, you see. That's the mischief they get in, for some of em, it was fatal, pretty bad.

Paula: Yea, I can imagine.

Dodson: Well, now you mentioned the situation over on the other side of the tracks. Did any of that crime extend over into this part of San Fernando?

Marie: No, they stayed there. But they're...

Lorraine: They're coming over there now.

Marie: San Fernando will be a historical and it will go back to the Mexicans.

Lorraine: It was originally, it was a Mexican settlement and a Spanish, you know the Mission and everything and I think the Mexicans..

Marie: They're buying all over here.

Lorraine: We have hundreds of them, three hundred on this street here. And we never had anything like that.

Marie: They stayed there, but uh, the way property has changed, and of course integration and all these things have made it, they don't think anything about it. And they've, I think, another thing, I think it's filled up pretty much over there and if people move out of here, and die off, er migrated..

Paula: Did they have as many people come across the border as they do now? You know, now they even have problems of people coming across the border.

Marie: I don't think they had the trouble, but we didn't hear as much about it.

Paula: Most of these people were native Californians?

Marie: Well, I think they came over because you know they had that what was that strip they had down there on the highway, it was where they usually, there's been an awful lot of accidents this side of San Diego right near.

Lorraine: They call it suicide uh...

Paula: yea where the curve is

Marie: Well, that's where they would be looking for them, you see, and then they would have a....

Lorraine: They would have them in the back of the car.

Paula: Even at that time.

Lorraine: I would say with the exception of, the only ones that belonged here, you'd have to find names of well, Lopez, they were Spanish, weren't they? The Lopez family. You've studied into that.

Dodson: Yes.

Marie: Now, these people, that used to live next to here, the Riveras his family, see, now here's another thing, had holdings up in Saugus area, Newhall. And in fact, his father and mother were drowned in the San Francisquit Dam. There was only four

of his family. He was in Newhall staying and his father and mother and sister and I think a brother, they heard this, she told me, they heard this rush, it was water and they, he grabbed, er his sister grabbed one of the children and said now come on Mom and Dad. The father says now come on back to bed, it's the wind! Now, they went down you see. But there were about half of them, maybe a good half of them, maybe more went uh. Now that was in 28, March of 28. I'll never forget that. Some of my classmates found one of them and her four year old son was buried in the sand. That was a tradegy. And uh...

Dodson: That was the dam Mr. Mulholland built.

Lorraine: It crashed severely.

Marie: You see, the foundation, that was not characteristic of his work, I think he was, I think it really hurt him.

Dodson: That's my understanding, that it did.

Marie: I think it hurt him, himself. Uh, and I think that his I believe that it probably uh...I don't know how old he was at that time, whether he built anything after that but it was just uh, did you ever drive up there to see it.

Dodson: Yes, I have been up there and seen the old chunks of concrete that are up there.

Marie: Compared to Pacoima Dam up here, that's really a good dam, no water comes through that in the earthquake, there was some machinery that was damaged there, but that's a good earthquake, a good dam.

Dodson: Where is that dam located?

Lorraine: Right straight up this, it was on we used to be able to go right up Maclay Avenue. But you have to turn, that is the catch basin now. See, the Pacoima Dam, people look around and see all the subdivisions all the houses around here and they were closer to the dam, that was four miles. And they would say, "Oh my word supposed that would break!" But you know, it is such a wide area by the time the water they don't keep it full you see it just well it's just a catch thing now. Just for an emergency. Uh, but would have too wide, it would never reach houses.

Dodson: The water would spread out.

Marie: It would spread out, there's no danger and they never have had any.

Marie: That's and then my friends came from Granada Hills and took a bathtub full they used to wash with, you see. And uh uh uh out of his pool, just bring it ever so often, but the drinking water they bottled water. All I remember is hauling it.

Paula: How long did that last?

Marie: Three weeks.

Lorraine: Sanitation conditions, I tell you were terrible. Because they had to put the portable toilets on the street and peo...

Paula: They didn't even have a foundation for them?

Lorraine: No. You didn't have anything.. I've got some pictures of that earthquake. I'm telling you you don't just know how bad it was.

Dodson: I think that's true too, because those of us that didn't live too far from here never dreamed it was like that.

Marie: I know, my brother-in-law out here on Rinaldi and Balboa, was didn't know all this stuff. We didn't even take him for a ride. But I know all a woman up here that down at the it come kinda like this you know, it would just hit these and then maybe this place would be and not hit my house from a few.

Lorraine: Really, I lost the chimney, off of the fireplace, it fell onto the roof of the livingroom and we had to have a new roof put on, the ceiling fell from the livingroom and all the installation come down. It's a wonder my furniture wasn't ruined, I had to have all of the, all new plastering and everything in the livingroom and cracks in the house and the floor in the kitchen and the breakfast room was all cracked and I had to have all new floor put in there

Marie: See the difference. Now, my wall rack, about a third of it went over. But I had some sonic booms things through there, they didn't spread,there's one crack out there that seems to get a little larger and a patio one in uh. But otherwise there was no damage, but that's the way it happened, but the pipes, the water,the gas,and the sewer, were all like pretzels, they were just twisted, so they had to quit using everything.

Lorraine: Now, our ranch,

Marie: Was right by it, wasn't it?

Lorraine: Yes. Uh, you'd go past that ranch to get up to the Pacoima Dam. And we used to have to uh, when I was first married. They planted, uh the place to after they cleared it, uh they planted it to orchard and grapes, you know. That big thing and we didn't have any water up there. And we had to take the wagon and we put barrels in the wagon and would fill the barrels and take em up to water to keep the cuttings alive.

Marie: That was before the dam was built.

Lorraine: Yes. Before the..and the water would come down the

Marie: Beautiful water.

Lorraine: Oh, you couldn't..

Marie: So, clean.

Dodson: Well, now was the dam built to form a reservoir for drinking water or was it built for flood control?

Marie: Yes, it was built for flood control. I don't think any drinking water you see ours, we have and well until the earthquake, now were buying some from the L.A. River. We do have some, you see the our wells were up on Hubbard Avenue and Dronfield and as I understand it, the bottoms just slid. We lost so much of that. I had to haul water for three weeks here.

Lorraine: Well, you know during the earthquake, we didn't have water.

Marie: No.

Lorraine: From Burbank and the surrounding towns, they brought uh trucks, water trucks, and that's where we got our drinking water.

Marie: Yea.

Paula: This was during the last earthquake?

Marie: Yes. Oh, my goodness, it was just awful.

Dodson: I believe that many people don't realize that that was the situation up by the way.

Marie: When I tell people that I went down Sepulveda I had big plastic jars and I uh, bottles, and I would haul a full 17 or I think I had eighteen of them.

Paula: Did they cut off the gas?

Lorraine: I used, we went out and got our campstove and Don had a lantern, a Coleman lantern, so I used that, but our driveway was all crumpled, I lost the front porch, we had to have the floor repaired of the front porch.

Marie: I see, now I don't believe that you house is quite as sure it's as high as mine. If the foundation is as high. But I don't know the difference. But you see, it just went. There were places on Foothill, uh there was a beautiful well, it wasn't beautiful, it was a big um fairly new apartment house. It was just like a big chocolate bar, that had just "SMACK" broke like just like this.

Lorraine: A friend of ours owned that. Howard Ralph.

Paula: It's surprising more people weren't injured.

Lorraine: Well, the hospital right next to the foothills, there were, you see.

Paula: That's true.

Lorraine: That was where, but nobody here. Well, I don't know why I don't believe that situations, see the thing didn't fall in, well on you like it did up at the hospital.

Dodson: That's what made the difference probably.

Lorraine: Yes, uh.

Paula: And alot of people at the hospital were artificially, I mean they had machines running, right, now when they cut off, they....

Lorraine: Now alot more people were killed at the old one there, the one that was built in forty-eight, I think that was Veteran's there.

Marie: The brand new twenty million one by, did you see that.

Paula: Yea, that was awful.

Lorraine: But you see, the center of it, naturally wasn't here, this wasn't the center of it.

Paula: But you got hit really hard.

Marie: Yea, we did. Things in the cupboard, now like syrup and honey and jam and coffee and sugar and all of that, it all came out into the kitchen floor and my husband took the scoop shovel and the garbage can just to throw the things away.

Marie: Well, this thing went clear over, I lost all my wedding, all of the glassware. I had some nylon hand painted things. This was over, see that pillow I have over there, the whole console, it went over and went on that pillow. Otherwise it would have broken, the glass there. Now that's heavy.

Dodson: Yes. And that turned that.....

Marie: Unsafe.

Dodson: We're talking about a television set of the console type and this earthquake turned it completely over.

Marie: I had the pillows there for the children to sit on, they'd move if they, but it was right out in front and if it hadn't fallen on that, the glass would have broken.

Lorraine: Over here at Boy's market, the parking lot raised up and some of it come down, there were cars buried right underneath there.

Dodson: Is that right.

Lorraine: I know you're right when people, unless go through it you just.

Paula: I didn't um, my family are the type that comes out to see what happened in the valley, we knew it was damaged, but we were in Burbank and we, in Burbank a couple, a one building fell down and some people's chimneys, of course what you suffered through.

Lorraine: No, well, we didn't.

Paula: But, we didn't come out to see and I don't think any of my friends even realized it.

Lorraine: That rest home on Foothill Blvd., OH! Foothill Blvd, just raised up and oh, they had to evacuated those patients. Some of them were senile, it was terrible, tryin to get em out of there and was just a total wreck.

Marie: Well, I'll tell the sensation, is a I have a building down here on at the end of this street that was our place of business. I never even thought of that, never even thought of that thing!

Paula: About your building.

Marie: About my building! The bricks! Not a one of them came off, you see there wasn't any damage there at all.

Dodson: Now were the bricks reinforced that held it together? Sometimes we think that in an earthquake, a brick building

is more apt to be shaken apart one brick from another.

Marie:
Lorraine: I haven't any idea about the construction. I know I was, we built, my husband and I had it built. I don't know, but there was, I sold it before the earthquake. Anyway, it was still partly mine, you see, but anyway, they had added forty feet on the back, but there was no damage to nothing fell there, see that's what I mean, now, the morning of the earthquake, when you went outside of course I've been in quite a few. I head outside, they say to get under something like this, a door jam, to get out was my main idea. I couldn't get this way because the kitchen was completely full of glass. There was margarita fell out of and all the dishes everything was a mess. And, I locked myself out, I took my I wanted my radio, I took my. Now, this will tell you about communication, I put my robe on real quick and my hat, I saw this black streak that went through my bed and went to the closet and she didn't come out for 4 days.

Dodson: I've heard stories the animals were very upset.

Marie: Oh yes, some of them were killed under the houses too. But now I went out as fast as I could and nobody was out, not a soul. I didn't see you out there and I went with this lady, they each have a key to my house, see. Of course, mine was inside, I locked my self out, so they couldn't find, it was all mixed in the food and everything on the floor, so, now 20 minutes, elapsed, I'm sure by the time I got my little transister. I walked out with that just twisted on. 20 minutes? It might have been a half hour, but 20 minutes. When I turned it on, the first message, there's a report, that was KNBC. There's been a report of an earthquake in the San Fernando Valley, but no damage reported as yet.

Dodson: You know I heard that myself, a report that there was no damage.

Lorraine: No telephone, my children come running over and when they couldn't get us on the phone and they were over in about 5 or 10 minutes and they were so worried about dad and me and the a piano in, shut Lisa into her bedroom.

Marie: Yes, alot of people were locked in their room for a time.

Lorraine: And she got panicked. And Herald had to shove the piano out of the way and she got panicky and climbed through the.....

Marie: Is it running?

Paula: Yea. That's alright, but it went, the light went out.

Dodson: Oh it stopped just a minute, but it seemed to be running.

Paula: You were right in the middle of that part about Lisa

Dodson: No not I stopped it

Marie: No, it's going.

Dodson: Oh, it is.

Paula: That's right, she couldn't get out and scared to death

Marie: Oh, and she was screaming....

Lorraine: Now alot of people, I'll tell you the one's worse, I started out, the thoughts that come to you, I had my granddaughter with me and when you are thinking, well, I must see if somebody's alright, my niece lives across Foothill. On the other side of Foothill, she did at that time. And she had just lost her husband and a Christmas time, so she was alone. I drove my car out of the garage and I headed up toward Foothill and there no signals, see,

Paula: Oh, my! Was there alot of people on the road?

Marie: Oh, they all rerouted down Foothill, here, you see, the a bridge had gone down, now that was the one that went down and crushed a man. That was his son-in-law, a friend of mine. And uh they had, there were 3 of them that went to their work everyday and they always said, you gotta wait more five minutes for us at each pick-up. This man had overslept. This one that was killed, well the others went on, see and uh, if they hadn't waited the 5 minutes, just one minute would have made a difference. They waited five minutes for him. When they went under the underpass.

Paula: You're right, it was bad timing.

End of this tape....

Tape #2

Dodson: Yes, it's recording now. One thing.

Paula: You just say that's the worst experience you've ever had.

Lorraine: Well yes, here in the Valley.

Dodson: One thing, I wanted to ask you about, I've heard reports that there was quite a bit of damage to the Glen Haven Cemetary. Do you know anything about that?

Marie: I'm not sure, most of my folks are, I don't think that there's nothing, well, I'll say this. That my husband's ashes are near what they call the lily pad. Now that was a little pond. Oh, a little pond. It was a a scenic part of the place. That's the only part that I thought it was bad. Some of the crypts, my sister is in a crypt there are some cracks there. I went in, I looked over pretty much but, uh I'm not sure just how their water system was damaged a great deal. I know the lawns were in pretty bad shap for quite awhile. But uh, that has such terrific drainage, that's the way our whole section up here. That's why we're never flooded. When there are floods all over the valley and perfect drainage. But uh did you go up there, or XXXXXXXXXX you know anybody up there?

Lorraine: No, I don't.

Marie: But I don't believe, I know that lily pad, I think the little pond was eliminated, it's not there now. And I think that it just probably as the cemet broke, in the pond, it was the lining. My sister is in a crypt on the out-side. I'm not too sure I believe that I saw, but I would say not expectedly, damaged.

Dodson: Do you know whether any of the stones were knocked over? The tombstones, or

Lorraine: There are no stones.

Dodson: Oh, there are no stones.

Lorraine: No, no stones that I know of.

Dodson: The reason that I asked, was that my students had a sister buried there and she told me that after the quake, it mixed up the graves and her family is unable to now to determine where the sister is buried. And I just wondered if you had heard any stories like that?

Paula: Is there an older area up there?

Marie: My folks are in one of the oldest areas. They bought property there and theirs is all uh...

Paula: No tombstones there either?

Marie: No, just markers, but it could have been in some areas. See, it's hilly there.

Dodson: UH uh.

Marie: But I have never heard of that, and I don't think that my folks, of course you don't know em. I wanna tell you one thing, it could of, anything could happened underneath because I'll bet you, that you wouldn't dare have your place surveyed around here anymore.

Dodson: Is that right?

Marie: Oh, my goodness sakes, have you seen, did you drive up Glenoaks. Do you know what Glenoaks Blvd. is here?

Dodson: Yes.

Marie: Before you go home, you go down this street, or go down the next one, til you come to Glenoaks, make a right and look toward Hubbard. Hubbard is up hill now, 7 feet.

Lorraine: Yea.

Marie: It rose 7 feet and some places have sunk.

Lorraine: Yea, the...

Dodson: In otherwords, it just changed the contour of the street altogether?

Marie: Yes, now I'll tell you what happened and the reason I know how severe it went there, on Hubbard Avenue, that's our boundary, there. Uh, she was working in a nursing home in Sunland. She always left a 6 o'clock, but she left just before see. And by the time it started, she was out going across the bridge out here and around the bridge towards Sunland and the rocks started coming down there on her. She left her home probably half past five. But uh she didn't come back home, she took care of the patients over there she's a stalwart, a RN to the last! HA HA
So when she came home, now that's Seventh Street, the next one's Dronfield. She is between Seventh and Dronfield, on Hubbard. When she walked in her entry, she couldn't get in the kitchen, her organ had gone back and forth across the

room and then went through the wall.

Paula: Oh, gosh!

Marie: Oh, it just made you sick!, just made you sick! tea kettle is whistling in the background! I've had more records with the tea kettle and I'd think when did I put that on? And the dog barking. Anyway, um

Lorraine: The doorway...

Marie: The refrigerator was over, jammed against the sink, if it moved.

Lorraine: Mine used to.

Marie: That was the biggest thing that went over, but well, bookcases went over, this picture over here was over the a this fireplace here and the gas was still on, see, then, til we turned off the heat, but it was cold that morning. Her house, well it just had to be done over, she slept in the entry hall there for two weeks. That was, now that was where it rose 7 feet. But, it went, before you go, you drive there and you'll see a shopping center, because that's the only way you can identify it, Hubbard Avenue. And you slowly approach to it, but it's a seven foot bridge there, now I, my husband every place he'd buy, he have it surveyed, you know and I know I have the survey on the building down there and I'll bet you that it slid. I would just love to know just how much of my property I have of theirs and they have of mine. But you don't know.

Dodson: No, it would be so hard to straighten out now that its...

Marie: Well, I've often thought now, wouldn't a surveyor, maybe I'm wrong, but I would say that there's been that much movement and we're still, we're still, and for weeks after that. We'd sit there on the davenport and we'd have tremors.

Lorraine: See, we had ninety some that first day.

Dodson: I know there were an enormous number of after shocks.

Lorraine: I had a friend that uh, they lived up on you know the you know, the route and they had a two story, you know the oldest house. One of the oldest houses in San Fernando. It had upstairs and it had a cellar. Uh, a cement cellar

And uh, the folks were sleeping upstairs. And the floor from the upstairs gave way, the whole house, you know that whole house went down. And they fell, they went through the floor into the cellar. Sonny had to break them, break, you know get em out. And of course they were all scared to death.

Marie: Of course they are. The same thing happened in the Sayre Street earthquake up here

Lorraine: Yea, well that's where, well he was in Alfreda's house on the next corner. Yes on the next corner,

Marie: Yes on the next corner, well, now all of their appliances, their refrigerator and a stove went right through it. It was an old house, I don't know how old that house was, but it was down into the hole. I don't know if they filled that in or not. The hole is still there, the house has been taken.

Lorraine: Yea, they took that away. Well, now Sonny and Alfreda have rebuilt their place, but, in those days, of course right across from Knoxa (SP?) Place there, and they had this big cellar and they went down,the two boys and Maryann. They went right down.

Dodson: Well, did the roof fall in in on top of them?

Marie: No.

Dodson: Or did the roof remain intact?

Lorraine: No, the roof came down solid and they were just pinned right down there in the cellar.

Marie: Now I don't know if you've ever had any pictures. Now I went afterwards because there was a new fisher there up toward the dam, there was alot of movement. All of those bare spots you see there are still landslides. Right around ...

Lorraine: It was just a big cloud.

Marie: Yes, for a week.

Dodson: Is that right?

Marie: Yes, but now I went up there and their was a new subdivision. We were talking about roofs, uh I could take you there uh, but all the houses have all been replaced now, but it was they were all new and they all had the roofs on, but they were not finished. And all that was there then, was

Paula: Did you fell the one from, what was it, 1933, the Long Beach one?

Marie: Yes.

Paula: Did you feel it up here in San Fernando?

Marie: Up in Tehachapi, too.

Lorraine: Well, I was in San Diego.

Paula: You were in San Diego, and you felt it there too?

Lorraine: Yea, we felt it there. And the Long Beach, you know there's always that happens from every disaster, but, you know, that during this time when people were, you know, in trouble and so much distress and everything, there was people that hadn't spoken to each other for long periods of time or didn't ever know! each other that were bringing in coffee or doing things to see if they could help and uh with that, I thought was so that people still have compassion for their fellow man.

Dodson: Right, the people hadn't changed whether the environment had or not.

Lorraine: No, and so I thought that was very nice. Yea, you take neighbors or people that had misunderstandings or something like that and do you know uh, you'd see em out in the street talking and they all had something in common, you know and had forgotten their misunderstandings.

Paula: You know the buildings that you said fell, the older buildings what were they built out of then, like the original homes here in the valley?

Lorraine: Well,they were built out of know you wood.

Paula: Their all wood structures.

Lorraine: Wood structures.

Dodson: Sometimes, we think that the wooden frame houses come through better, that they can give a little bit instead of collapsing like masonry, was that your impression?

Lorraine: Yes. Most of the, but those that I said that went down were wood, but most of the wooden framed buildings stood it a whole lot better that the stucco. Now, our block wall fence came down we had to have have new...uh, we had an awful lot of damage, and the people around us on this side of the street wasn't too bad.

Dodson: That's the most amazing that one side of the street got it worse than the other side.

Lorraine: It just seemed to go kinda like lightning, you know, in streaks like that.

Paula: What about, I was interested in the houses, you said alot of the

was the roofs, they were on the ground. It had not been finished, the roofs on the whole subdivision there. And I walked across the road and I learned a little bit about fishers. They're just little things, now see the earth slides this way and then this way. Then there was a brand new one there because it was fresh earth. Those things you'd have to know, you'd have to experience these things to really realize. But you're right when people say that you have to be it to believe it. YOu have to be just shook out of your bed until you'd say dear God, when is it gonna stop! It is? Absolutely terrified. Just terrified, you know, because you know the thing about an earthquake is when it starts, you know if it's gonna end or not. That is the frightful thing about it. That night, I put my little granddaughter to bed, and I sat out there and tried to read, I had my pajamas and robe on. Nobody else undressed they kept their close on! for a week! Some people didn't take their clothes off for a month.

Dodson: I supposed they wanted to be ready to run if there was another one.

Marie: Well, I was ready, I had my robe on and it was a dark night. So I was sitting there with my candlelight trying to read. And, uh, real brave, but you don't, your mind is just kind of uh just kind of blank.

Lorraine: You can't absorb it.

Marie: You just can't absorb it. Because on that Friday night, uh this was on Tuesday, they finally got through to us because my daughter lives in Big Bear.

Paula: It took em that long to get through?

Marie: Yea, uh uh, you couldn't get through. So, but she said....

Lorraine: And then they come through Sylmar.

Marie: 367, 362 were wiped out completely but you couldn't get out of 213 at all, but my daughter finally called, she said, "How's your building, Momma?" And I said what building? It never even dawned, I never looked down there to see if the bricks were out of it, but you are not you just don't think, so when you uh, one of the foremost things, is uh, well it shook such helpless, I just think about those people that were in those horrible ones in other countries. What an awful thing.

houses originally in, like the ranch house where you lived, were all wood and were they one stories, or two stories, and they had cellars. Why did you people have cellars? I mean know they have them back East for tornados, but you don't see them being built anymore out here.

Lorraine: No. No. You don't, uh well, we didn't have a cellar up there and of course it's been so long since we visited the ranch and the ranch was sold, to Dr. Dillon, in Los Angeles. And uh so of course the place where we lived, was gone. And we have been in this house for twenty-one years. And uh, so, those houses were down, Dismantled before the earthquake. But, uh we have cracks in the stucco and everything like that, but uh and I have some cracks in the plaster, but uh.

Paula: What was the Tehachapi earthquake? Were you here during that time?

Lorraine: Yes.

Paula: I don't remember which one was that?

Dodson: I'm not sure, was that in the 1950's, I just don't remember, for sure. the date of that one.

Marie: Uh, do you remember, Lorraine?

Lorraine: That's when I started walkin down the street here, uh, my husband says, where are you going? I just got out of bed, that shook pretty hard.

Marie: There was alot of damage.

Lorraine: Yes, it's all spread out there, and there's not alot of uh, I don't know what the damage was there, it did do up the town pretty good. It's pretty good, it's a little town, it's not very big.

Marie: Yea, Alfreda had a cousin that lived up there and I guess, you know the woman's cousin that's up there, I guess, the walls of that went and some of the...

Paula: But it did shake down here? But it didn't cause any damage anywhere?

Marie: No. It wasn't here, you could just feel that one.

Lorraine: The Long Beach, I had a case of eggs, with a fellow that was helping me, we were out on the ranch at that time. And we were taking them up the poultry colony, and uh, we just wove back and forth and uh we finally got them, but there was lots of shakes after that because I parked on uh, you know, Devonshire and Zelzah, let's see I went around, I was on Lassen, so I went

over, there was a little store on the curve there. And I parke my car in front of the little store, but I didn't put the brake on, I had it in gear, I guess, no, in neutral, and it a, when I come out of the store the cars were slowing up going by, mine was right, my little girl, little towhead was stickin up out of there and the car was straight across, it had rolled back, there was that much motion, because I had parked it like I always did, it was level there. But it did shake the car back in the quake because there was that many...

Paula: Because I don't think the people in Long Beach didn't feel it a, or least my brother that was living down there, didn't feel our Sylmar earthquake.

Marie: NO, no, I don't think they did that much, not as much as you felt it, but not like you did when you are almost in the center.

Paula: Yes.

Dodson: I don't think much damage was done in the Southern part of the San Fernando Valley, for that matter by the quake.

Lorraine: Long Beach?

Dodson: No, by the Sylmar.

Lorraine: Oh, by the Sylmar, no! because a .....

Marie: They evacuated the patients and took em down...

Lorraine: They took em to the Granada Hills Community, too, because that was full that's the only time that was full. But, San Fernando, they didn't evacuate out of the San Fernando Hospital, because Eileen was there.

Lorraine: No, but I mean from up here they didn't.

Marie: Oh, yes they took them all over, and that was the Veterans. And uh, Olive View.

Lorraine: And of course, aa the amount of fires around has been kinda scary.

Paula: Have you had quite a few?

Lorraine: We've had quite a few, when the hills were so dry, when we lived up there, boy! it was really bad.

Paula: Did you ever have your farm burned?

Lorraine: No, but my husband spent, we were married in 1919, the big fire, he spent on the parking lot! Ha Ha.

Marie: But I have seen that whole range there with the flames jumping from one plase to the other. There were alot of ashes.

Lorraine: And they brought the high school boys up and they fought fire and we had to tie the horses to the clothes line. We took the

horses out of the barn, and tied them to the, you know, they just go crazy with fire and

Marie: You know animals all over do.

Lorraine: Oh my!

Paula: What about any flooding, do you have any flooding there?

Lorraine: No here.

Paula: That right, it just naturally drains?

Lorraine: I have seen Reseda, when we have heavy rains and other parts of the Valley. I went over to practice in a choir group in one of the churches in Reseda when the water was half up the piano. But, see this is such a well drained, this isn't even adobe, it's a Sylmar sand, a very light soil, and decomposed granites, so an awful lot of that. Now I would say that um...

Marie: They have, it washes, you know sometimes, it gets across

Lorraine: Oh yes, oh yes!

Marie: the pavement, you know. They have landslides.

Lorraine: Last spring the had the flash floods that that lady was killed on her cycle. That was because of new buildings you know and the.

Marie: loose dirt and things like that, but ordinarily, but that was a flash flood.

Dodson: Well, now I wondered about that because it said the four foot wall of water came down the street.

Marie: Well, yes.

Lorraine: That was a flash flood, flash floods will do that right out in level desert, that was not normal.

Tea kettle is whistling, much laughter.

Dodson: Yea I've got it off since you've got up. (the tape)

Paula: Were there floods before that? Back in uh...

Lorraine: Well, we had floods back at the ranch. Oh, I've seen big boulders just come tumbling down.

Paula: Good grief!

Lorraine: But that isn't down here, up there we had um, but San Fernando don't have any.

Dodson: I did have another question about the earthquake. When all of the gas pipes were damaged, did you get fires as a result of it? Pilots setting the gas on fire?

Marie: By the boys market, that just shot, they thought that the Huntington Estates were gonna catch fire. I don't how long that lasted, but my niece lived right over there. And that's the thing that stressed her. Her dogs got out and she was

hunting them, but this big, it just shot across the street. Now, there's one thing about MacDonald's that's kind of an interesting thing, it was more or less on a level place. The custodian was in there and the floor split right in the center and he started running. But that now, see what was happening see that's right near Hubbard and the ground was raising there you see. So, that's a kinda of a mound, now, we have to, you know...

Lorraine: Well, even where Boy's market is it's raised. And that used to be sorta kinda like down in a whole!

Dodson: Is that so? Ha Ha Ha

Paula: But now it's up high, uh?

Marie: You actually start halfway between Harding Street and Glenoaks and then you look up the street and see Hubbard disappear when you used to go over to it!

Dodson: Well, now did any houses catch fire as a result of leaks in the gas lines as far as you know?

Lorraine: Everybody seemed to know and the neighbors helped each other and they shut the gas off first.

Paula: Oh, that's good.

Lorraine: But that was over there by the market, but outside of that, I don't think, but of course it may been somebody there to turn the gas off.

Dodson: In the San Francisco earthquake of 1906, were told the greatest damage was the fires they had caused rather that the quake.

Marie: That's what I hear.

Dodson: But here that didn't happen, you didn't get big fires?

Marie: No, no. We didn't get big fires. [illegible]

Dodson: Well, I'd always wondered about the houses themselves, the houses I hadn't read that anybody's house caught fire as a result of his gas line being ruptured.

Paula: You weren't here in time to feel the earthquake of San Francisco. Some people tell us they actually felt it here.

Lorraine: No, I came to California in 1913. And that was in 1906.

Paula: Did anybody in your husband's family ever experience it?

Lorraine: Yes! His cousin was in it. And their place, it burned down and he slept in the alley. He said that they had no place to go and anyplace to try to get a place to sleep and he said they were just stranded. He was, I think he was about 12 yrs old, then. His father had a drugstore, and the drugstore went down

and I don't think he found his mother and father for sometime. They got separated in all of the confusion and he said, "I slept on some trash in an alley for three or four nights." And I guess .....Would you like some coffee?

Dodson: Well, I guess this is a little more than we expected! We're not only getting a delightful interview, but a.....

Marie: Do you drink coffee?

Dodson: Yes I do!

Marie: Would you like a little cream or sugar in it?

Dodson: Well, maybe we'll have refreshments and then talk a little more.

Lorraine: Well, I don't know I think we've just about covered everything.

Paula: Well, no, we have lots.

Dodson: Unless you people are tired.

Lorraine: I'm not.

Paula: Isn't it one of the most delightful interviews we've sent on.

Dodson: Yes, I really think now that this is one of the best interviews we've had.

Lorraine: We've kept em visiting and tellin em about people that we know.

Marie: You see, I'm not an organized person. I can make a perfect outline, but when it comes to doing it, or performing with an outline, I would have to have and I was gonna tape a few things that I remembered that I didn't do it.

Lorraine: My children's birthday,both of them, my youngest son and his wife's birthdays are on halloween, so I was, when she called, I just knew about this morning, she called me. And, so I said, OH! I missed her bakin a cake, I was gonna have em for dinner tomorrow and I was tryin to get things organized, to get the salad made and the beans strung.

Marie: What were talking about before this?

Dodson: You were talkin about the schools.

Marie: Well, the best teachers leaving I would say that those teachers leaving in the early twenties.

Paula: They moved into Los Angeles.

Marie: Yes, they went into the Los Angeles Schools. I don't know what school, the high school
There is a siren in the background.

Lorraine: I wonder what happened, there's a siren.

Marie: Anyway, um I don't know what high schools, Los Angeles High Schools, no. It wouldn't have been Los Angeles High School, no. But there was, they was all seemed to be wanting to leave and

and go, uh, the pay was, I'm sure it wasn't any better. But a...

Dodson: Were the San Fernando Schools at that time in with the city schools?

Marie: Yes, they are now.

Dodson: I know they are now, I wondered.

Marie: Oh, yes, they always have been they were always in the Los Angeles City Schools. Then they got in the new budget teachers, I believe I don't think were, And I never understood, except that they said that the Mexican element was uh a little bit hard on their cars, they were damaging the cars where they were parked, in an area behind the high school.

Dodson: Was there any discipline problem in the classroom that bothered them?

Lorraine: I don't remember any disciplin problem in any of the classes, Not like there is now. The classes weren't as large, that's another thing see. They were cozier and easier to ....

Marie: Well, III a, and I don't think the teachers can give, you know when the classes are larger, I don't think the teachers can give individual attention, you know that we had in bygone years.

Dodson: I think that's absolutely true.

Lorraine: The first thing that they had to do was disciplin. Mr. Darlings, Mr. Darlings taught here. He went down to Palm Springs of course he was branching out and he made beautiful lamps, laminated plastic, like that. And he moved to Palm Springs, so I asked him, why because he was a very good teacher. He said well, it was teaching anymore, it was disciplin. It was a disciplinary job, that's all. And then of course the children, they were the classes were getting bigger, all the time and they had until now it is just a matter of disciplin. That's all. I don't know how they really teach them acting up, in the upper grades.

Dodson: Do you remember Mrs. Frazier's father, wasn't he a high school principle in San Fernando?

Lorraine: Yea, I wanna tell you that was one of the cute things.

Tape ends...

Very easy going, we had him in science, and he was very easy going and I think all of the girls remembered him. He was very polite, very polite. One time one of the teachers was walking

toward him. And he laid everything, all of his books down on a shelf, so he could tip his hat, but that always stuck in our minds, we thought that was a cute thing.

But, he and Faith, his sister-in-law, Faith Roberts were fixtures there. Now, we were back on the teachers again, It must have been in the 11th grade, it was after some of the better teachers, the English teachers that I had had were gone, except Faith Roberts, I had Shakespear with her. But this teacher failed me, I had never failed anything before in my life you know and I was under my picture, in the high school annual, each picture there was a caption with a smile that is childlike and bland. Well, you would think that I could go to that principle and say, Miss Allen failed me and I have no intention of taking that course over! But she just simply does like me. And she didn't. Why, I don't know.

Paula: That happens.

Lorraine: But I did, and I was in the principle's office and uh, I didn't have to take it over, but that was the last word, now she really failed me, but that was, she was not physically real well, I don't think, Well, I don't believe, I think the woman was a frustrated person.

Marie: She was principle of the high school, then.

Lorraine: Mrs. Ingum was.

Marie: And Mr. Ingum was principle of Morningside.

Lorraine: Yes right, and with that you had very good disciplin without any violence or any trouble, those were stern people.

Marie: Probably because I remember, I wasn't goin ta do anything to get in trouble with them.

Dodson: Well, did Mr. Frazier become principle of the High School?

Lorraine: Yes, Frazier was principle of the High School.

Marie: Mrs. Ignum (SP?) was principle, and Mr. Frazier was vice principle. I don't believe he ever got the the principle thing.

Lorraine: Maybe he did, not while I was there and not when, I don't know was principle. Mr. Millin, did he ever get to be principle?

Marie: I don't think he did. He was a coach and we had art from him too.

Dodson: Well, usually there's not enough coaching to keep a person busy so they have to do something else.

Lorraine: Well, I remember that we did have art, because I remember, now how many of them, uh how many of them learned to make the color charts, not true colors, and natural colors.

Paula: You have that in college, but not in high school.

Lorraine: You don't have that in high school. We had to sit out there in the library building. We had to sit out there and draw that whole building. I was so proud of mine,pillars and everything, that was all freehand, you see, there's nothing but lines, you would like to have a ruler or something there, but we did things like that. Things were, I don't remember any violence really, the nearest of violence would be sneak day, they always had a sneak day, the seniors.

Marie: I think an interesting thing, too, uh during our high school days was that Lindberg and Holly Bolland (Sp?) were graduates from San Fernando High.

Dodson: That is very interesting, no one had told us that.

Lorraine: Not Lindberg,

Marie: Well, yea, Holly Bolland.

Lorraine: Holly Bolland, and uh...

Marie: He built a plane.

Lorraine: And when uh, we were living in San Diego, uh, they had the plane over there and came to see us when Don was manager there. So I thought that was very interesting and Holly managed to get interested in the gliders.

Marie: I think he's still in it.

Lorraine: No, he passed away. But it's a long time ago. We came back in 1935, but uh, and we lost of him. Anyway, you know Bo were old time people.

Marie: Oh, yea

Lorraine: And of course Harley Bol , and Holly B , and Harley tour, and all of them, you know were all schoolmates. And so, it was quite interesting to hear em talk about all of this, when they changed and the plans, with the gliders.

Dodson: Can you tell us what sort of subjects you studied in high school, were they, was the circulum any different than it is now, do you think?

Lorraine: Well, I didn't graduate from high school. I did alot of my schooling after I was married because my father was an invalid and my mother had to work so, and I was the oldest

of the family so I had to stay home, so after I was married, I went back to school, so I don't really know too much about the change, but when I went back to school, I studied home economics and dietician work and things like that. And so, I went to Belmont High and East Los Angeles City College and I got my education was broken out. So I couldn't tell about how when it was different. I went to the tenth grade and that's all. And I got the other education, adult education. I couldn't tell you, Lorraine could tell you.

Dodson: I was asking about the circulum, the sort of subjects you studied, whether you think it's any different then or now, or how it might differ in the method of presentation or anything of that kind.

Lorraine: Well, they don't teach Latin.

Dodson: That's true, I used to teach Latin myself.

Marie: All my children, the two older children, and Betty, they all took Latin, but not they're taking Spanish.

Lorraine: This is the thing, you have to have your Latin first, then your Latin comes easy.

Marie: That is the biggest sin in the whole education, is that they don't teach Latin.

Lorraine: Of course Latin was easy for me, uh I really, I don't know why whether it's an inherited love of English, uh Latin was from the very beginning, they used to cry because it was so hard for them. But I think, that, and oh, and I, and appreciation, music appreciation, that was something to me it was uh, what are these children gonna know about uh.. I think on this program yesterday, when uh, they had uh, they were telling a story about, Beethoven's Fifth wasn't that Bobby Venton saying something about that?

Marie: Oh! I just loved that!

Lorraine: Well, they said Beethoven and then he made this uh DA DA DA DA Do, you know, how many kids know that's Beethoven's Fifth .

Paula: Probably very few.

Lorraine: So, that's something that I just can't understand why, well of course in college, in circulum, uh let's see, elementary I got a four because I thought they should, let's see I started then and then I graduated from college in 1925. This was in 1924 and I got a four for insisting that they teach phonetics.

Lorraine: Now, getting back to it, she gave me a four because I insisted that I would not go along with the pictures of things.

Marie: Like sight reading.

Lorraine: Like sight reading. I think that and the La..Now you can trace the meanings of any word you want in the English language if you have Latin.

Marie: I think it's so necessary in this area where there are so many Spanish speaking people. That people know how to speak Spanish, I know in my friend's business he's district manager and now everything is coming out bi-lingual. And so, it's been years since we've been in high school or college. So, he and his wife are taking Spanish and their taking it in the dialogue it's coming.

Lorraine: It's called Conversational Spanish. Their going over here to Kennedy High School, they go on Monday night. And, but he says, I'd wanna know what the policies were about and what people were talking about when they come in. It's so necessary, he does have a couple of Spanish.

Marie: Well, that's what they have to have because at this age.

Lorraine: I think in business and everything where you are living in an area where it's predominant the Spanish or Mexican people that it's so necessary to know how to speak it.

Dodson: Well, do you think than that some ways we don't require things that you regard as essential at the present time that maybe we make it a little easy or permissive.

Marie: I think so.

Lorraine: I don't know what their teaching.

Marie: And the way they teach, when we went to school we were strick, weren't allowed to walk around the room and be so free and go and visit and go and talk the way they do now. Of course I guess they were trying to teach concentration, I don't know what it is.

Lorraine: I don't think that in the schools, that they are ever, now we are relaxed people now, dress, possible language, and we're not so shocked. Which is I think it's a good because words don't mean a thing to me. They can just run up and down the street, that does not bother me. That does not bother my ears because I think it's much better than an ulcer, if they've gotta do, let em say it. But the disciplining of action.

The pushing people, they should be disciplined and not be too free in their movement, I think that's the only way to have it quite and peaceful. You know, kids can study now with the TV and the radio, but I'm sure that they're not learning what they should learn. I think right there is where they should chop off. Well, it's just like a hospital where I did volunteer work. The administrator, everything must be relaxed well, there are c certain places where you could be where things are relaxed.....

Marie: Well, I think that there is a time and place for everything.

Lorraine: That's right!

Marie: And there's times when we should be respectful and a time when we should be quiet and know what we're talking about and reflect and everything.

Lorraine: That's right!

Marie: But this business of havin commotion and noise and everything going on, I can't...

Lorraine: You can trace that to their dancing and their music, now you see. Have you ever listened to the music and the dance that they do?

Dodson: I sure do sometimes but I'm not sure of some it.

Lorraine: DA DA DA that's fine, alright, but a. it's restless. Now the first thing that brought this on was progressive jazz. Because I bought my fair lady when my son was in high school. And I love my fair lady, I have the whole tape, original and I just thought well, I'm gonna go along with this.

Dodson: Well, did he like it in that form?

Lorraine: Not mine, not the original tape, but the progressive, the progressive jazz was to me forerunner of what you have now. I think it's a little improved now, but jazz was. The way I defined progressive was tuning up the instruments and getting ready to play. That's what the whole record sounds like. I made myself listen to it, you know they just are...

Marie: Well, I kinda have an open mind but I don't care for it.

Lorraine: But you know I went to a wedding Saturday and they had the dancing. It was ballroom, and you can dance ballroom with the other dancing. I think it's fine exercise but I don't there's anything more beautiful than ballroom dancing and all of them doing that and instead of standing two feet apart and kicking their feet up and

rie: And shaking their bodies and...

Lorraine: Now, that's exercise.

Marie: Dancing is exercise, that is calestenics, and we used to call it I think. That's a little bit strong, as far as I can see, But it's not beautiful. When you start up here and pretty soon you get down on the floor and get back up this way.

Dodson: Now tell the truth, Paula!

Lorraine: That's all right! That's all right! That's perfectly all right! I'll tell, ya, I think, back to education..
I really think, that they can get some of these things like the most important things, sold on that simply because they speak English and they're in a place where they wanna find a meaning of a word. I think it just goes along in the English language that's all, and your other language, languages too. Helps you an awful lot in Spanish. But I do think that they can eliminate some of the things like my, I had my children, the two older ones the younger one I couldn't catch. But the two older ones I had in what they call the nightly dance. I made them go to that. One Friday it was practicing and this time they came in their dress clothes. The oldest one finally said I just didn't like it anymore so, now he was in metal shop so he had to go that all the time and the only thing he ever did but that was to cut his hair off too short to go, it looked terrible. Just so he wouldn't have to go to these dances anymore. So, they have them take alot of these elective which I don't think their interested. Now electives, I think they should be sponsored and looked into along with their Latin and some of these things that are very necessary I think they should be guided towards something that a.. plumbing! I think all boys wouldn't mind learning how to take care of the...

Marie: We've got that coming vocational school.

Lorraine: Well, see, now they have electives. Well, feel em out before and put em in vocational school. Something, which ever thing they were fitted for, so that instead of putting them all through these things. There were so many things that they took that were not absolutely necessary. I think that's it the objections at school. I think that's why kids don't stay in school.

Dodson: Now that brings up something that I wanted to ask you, did you have many electives when you were in high school or was the program pretty well laid out and you took certain courses that everyone took.

Lorraine: You had to have your solid first and you had usually four every

around, see. It was the only that I was ever touched in school. and it was such a suprise, remember she used to walk around with her tongue like this. I'd come over and it was like she'd bit her tongue she slapped me. Oh, it was such a suprise to me, oh I never moved and I never did forgive her either because I didn't think I needed to. I was probably goofing because when you come from a such strict, like we were back, like the teachers were back there just sat right on my desk.

Marie: Yea, that's true.

Paula: When I came out here, I came out here when I was 15 or so. I was already into reading and writing. And the reading was different, so we had learned to read different back there.

Marie: You probably used phonics back there.

Paula: I believe that was what it was.

Dodson: Would you feel that there was much more drill on things like the ABC's and the multipulication tables and that sort of thing?

Marie: In our time?

Dodson: Yes, that's what I mean.

Marie: Yes, I think so.

rraine: Now, a person that's teaching now. My daughter said that she had to, for instance that in this school that my granddaughter's in, she's 13. She was a very lively child and uh... for instance when she was little and very active, alert, when she was a little girl, I sat at the breakfast table with her and her mother an her mother said,"Now David" (that was the brother) "put your thumb on your little finger". So my granddaughter just did this and here he was with his hands open. Now, this girl has been a good student, so, she got a phonecall, my daughter got a phone-call from school and said that she was not, uh, her math was bad He said that she doesn't know her multiplication tables. She said I beg your pardon, I'm the one that taught her. She has quite a time with the school, cuz they call. She said if they would stop going out and picking up beer cans for aluminum and stuff like and stay right in there and teach them. Anyway she told the teacher, well he said she doesn't know her decimals. And she said allright now last year she got an A in math, I even gave her $5.00 because I thought that was something she wanted. And what are you doing down there at the school? And see now that has happened over and over to her because she really, she was a good student herself.

But I don't know whether now that's up at Big Bear Lake. The classes aren't as large. Uh, what's happening, what are they doing when they can't know, when they can give a child a B maybe but not an A and that's saying she doesn't know her decimals nor she doesn't know her multiplication. Now I've worked on those too I don't know really what's happening in the grammar schools, now that's junior high. Now I'll tell you one thing, I think the worst thing besides taking Latin of the circulum was the Junior.

Paula: Oh, to start Junior High, you mean?

Lorraine: I'll tell you why.

Marie: I think so too.

Lorraine: The Junior High, they have been built up to the sixth grade they got the world by the tail, when they get up to the seventh grade, then they are incorrugibles then because they really have, not all of them, we don't generalize that much But

Paula: That's a pretty bad age group, adolescence.

Marie: Well, I think where they have the Junior, you take some of these youngsters, they're pretty young, their younger than the one's that are there, their lost. In grade school, your lessons are assigned, in High school, or when they get into the others, they give you the assignment allright, but it you don't get it, that's up to you, well the pupil isn't used to that in grade school, well, they're there and they show you and everything but when you get into high school,the teacher's up there and she tells you and they give you the assignment, but they don't stay right with you and work with you and see that it's done, and so a child isn't used to that and so they're lost, they're nobody.

Dodson: I want to come back again to elementary school, was there any type of costume that you traditionally wore like a mini skirt or a full dress or something of the kind?

Marie: Ha Ha Ha Jim! you should have seen our.....

Lorraine: Well, I want to San Fernando on the other side of the tracks, and we wore, I lived on the other side of the tracks. And we wore smitties and skirts.

Dodson: Was this common for all of the girls, then?

Lorraine: But it wasn't a uniform, then?

Marie: That's what we wore in the...

Lorraine: Right, yea.

Marie: And of course we wore the bloomers.

Lorraine: I'll tell ya, that long middy, and these were pleated skirts, weren't they?

rie: Yea.

Lorraine: So, that's what I wore, this was back in Michigan, so we went to the circus and I had a real pretty petticoat, so I stuffed by skirt on up under the middy. You know petticoats, then they were embroidered and they had insertion and I didn't get to show it off and my, I was, so that, my mother was along. So, I had the middy out and I was a little bit bigger around here because I had tucked the skirt all up underneath the middy, I don't know why anybody would allow me anybody that was in charge of me when I went to the circus, here must have been somebody that was older there. But that's what...Those what, but we didn't have a regular.

Dodson: A regular costume that was prescribed.

Lorraine: No.

Marie: No. That was parochial.

Lorraine: That's right.

Dodson: Would you feel that the children, then looked any better in that sort of costume that they do now where there is...
End of tape.

Tape #3

Lorraine: As our mother said, be temperate in all theings.

Marie: Yea. We do things in moderation.

Dodson: You feel then, that in high school, certainly, there isn't too much moderation in clothes in comparison with the time when you were in high school?

Marie: Yea, Oh, my.
Much laughter....

Lorraine: I want to tell you something, how covered I was. WWI, I lived over here on 7th St. I know it was WWI, that was 1919. The troop trains went through it was a mile down there. All my friends were down there watching the troop trains. I was on 7th, one mile away watching the troop train in the middle of the street. That's as close as my mother would let me go. So, we were held pretty much, I would say the general run of parents were.

Paula: Much stricter.

Lorraine: Yea, I think we were fearful of anything that wasn't uh, when you have been raised to the point maybe I shouldn't be saying this, but I heard it on the radio and TV that when you have been raised proper, that you didn't dare kiss a fellow. Because then you should marry him. This is the way it used to be. I didn't have a steady til I was 17.

Dodson: Would you say then, that there are rules then on what we might call dating were much stricter than you were in your teens?

Lorraine: Oh, yes!

Marie: There couldn't be a boy drive up out in front

Lorraine: No.

Marie: Uh, I know my father was of the old school and if a boy come out and honked his horn and something like that you had to go to the door.

Lorraine: I know one time I had a friend come and he was out front and I didn't go out there and he whistled and my father went to the door and he said, you're not callin your dog. No! They had to come to the door.

Dodson: Well, were there rules on how early you had to get back into the home?

Marie: Yea, absolutely, and places you could go.

Lorraine: They were peakin out the windows until I got there.

Marie: My folks stayed up until I got home.

Lorraine: Oh I would say that it's entirely different now. Because I would say that that's why they run away, now. But we didn't used to do that there was no place to go. We weren't that head strong. We had an academy, I'd been with an academy down here on Glenoaks, she's got a picture of it up there. Uh..they came from all over and on Saturday afternoons we girls, cuz they were a church and the boys of the academy on Saturday afternoons. So, we were walking up and down the street too. We were on the sidewalk, so there was one who used to ask me, he was from Nepers Idaho. He was a nice fellow, he wanted to know if I could go to a movie at the Sun Val. I said "I never did go one before, Ha Ha!" I never did try even, I just knew better. But he tried and tried, of course they couldn't go until after sundown, see. So each Saturday, I would see him and talk to him, now see if your mother won't let you go to a movie, tonight. I wouldn't even ask.

Dodson: Well, did this make it difficult for you with your own daughter?

year. Now if you could squeeze in a couple of electives, a...

Marie: Well, they'd only let you have so many electives, I guess..

Lorraine: Yes, but you had to have your four. I can't remember the rules, whether you had to have electives, how many electives you could have. Or if you could substitute, I don't know if you could substitute any of them. But have you worked with any young people now that are not young anymore and seen their penmanship?

± Dodson: Well, yes that's be true. Some of it is very difficult to read.

Marie: And they don't read well, they don't spell well. I can remember as a child, I loved to go to, they had spelling bees and everything you know. Oh sure, and they don't have...

Lorraine: I don't what the educators, uh.. I think they changed after my children went to school. I don't know what their studying.

Marie: I don't understand it. And I can't help the kids with their arithmetic.

Lorraine: Well, that's true. Now when Barbara was, Barbara my daughter she'll be 47 in January. When she was a, they had a new rule when she when she went into school that children were not ready to read until they were 72 weeks. That's 6 years. Is that right?

Dodson: UM UM.

Lorraine: You know they don't try, thry weren't ready, still, so she didn't learn to read until she was in the second grade and she had a terrific teacher. Fortunately she learned to read after she went to, I tell ya, if you can't read and retain it, you had better stay off college. Unless you've got a tape recorder. Because you cannot remember to take notes fast enough. You've got to read, and if you don't read any faster than I do. I don't know how I got by because I'm a slow reader. And all the rest of my family are slow readers, but I know that. From experience that you guys had, I had to work twice as hard. But I think that you've got to. But she did happen to get a teacher then that was a fine teacher, a very very teacher.

Dodson: Do you remember any of your experiences in elementary school that you would like to tell us about?

Lorraine: I got slapped.

Dodson: I don't slapping is done very much anymore, what did you do to deserve such a terrible penalty?

Lorraine: I came out here from Michigan the last time when we settled and we were very strict and out here, they weren't as strict they were just a little bit more. And I probably was fooling

Dodson: In telling her what to do and what not to do. She lived here in the Valley of course too.

Lorraine: Yes she lived right around here and she was a puggy, very attractive, very popular, but uh, they didn't date too much, it was mostly they would have dances in the home and they didn'tdate too much until she got in college. I didn't have trouble but some of the I imagine did.

Marie: They had what they called a cotillion,you know.

Lorraine: Yes, I know.

Marie: That's what my boy...

Lorraine: That wasn't enough for them. The girls that wanted to date, I'm sure that most of them went out, but she didn't seem to, she was very curious about fellows. I can have a really funny story.

Dodson: You're sure you don't want me to record that funny story.

Lorraine: Oh, no! I tell ya.

Dodson: I'd like to ask you when you did begin going out with boys or other girls at the time, what sort of things did you go to? Perhaps either one of you or both of you would like to ask.

Marie: When we started dating? or what we went through?

Dodson: Yes, what sort of amusements would be available that a boy and a girl would go to?

Lorraine: Well, we weren't allowed to dance on the San Fernando High School grounds at all. Not while Mrs. Ingum was there. So, we had to hire the hall in Pacoima which was not the same Pacoima as it is now.

Paula: Uh uH.

Dodson: Um.

Lorraine: I really don't know what we did, really. We didn't, what'd you do, Marie?

Marie: Well, we went to, we used to have taffy pulls, went up to and I went to a few parties, home parties where we used to do the S and the home dances in the home. And things like that.

Lorraine: I can't remember either.

Dodson: Was the beach popular at the time.?

Lorraine: Yes, but we didn't uh ...

Marie: I don't know, I didn't seem to go to it.

Lorraine: We didn't go, we had a couple of trips to Catalina and I believe that was not, just a general run, it was just school and of course we were never out during the week. But we would go to the show and to the football games and the ball games. Things like that.

Marie: I went to the, I know Don and I used to go to the movies.

Lorraine: Well, see, that was only, all we had was weekends. They date all the time now.

Marie: We weren't allowed to go out, you know only at weekends.

Dodson: Well, did you have young people's groups in your church that had activities.

Marie: Yes. That's what I said, like we'd have taffy pulls and we used to have those progressive dinners, you know at the church groups and of course we had them at lodge, too.

Lorraine: We had League and Christian Endeavor.

Marie: Um, um.

Lorraine: But my didn't have any groups, I was brought up in Science. And they had no activity at that Church.

Marie: And of course I belonged to the Baptist Church. Before the Baptist Church was here, uh...I went to the Methodist Church. They have the League and everything.

Lorraine: But they did not know the books of the bible. Because I knew em all. Uh. We had contests, you know, that was the first things we had to do in our Sunday School, was learn all the books of the bible and not say"Matthew, Mark, and John that was a horse was walkin on!" This is all the other kids could do, you know and it just came natural for, you'd just have contests and the ones that were, they just didn't know the books of the bible at all. And, but they'd have a quite a bit of activity, I think they had more that they do now. They had to because kids, weren't, they didn't understand religion that well, so they had to have an assigned activity.

Marie: Yes, I know at our church, they had, uh, the young people would have bowling and they'd go to different, uh...

Lorraine: It's all different now.

Marie: It's all different! And they'd have the beach parties.

Lorraine: The distance was no thing.

Marie: No, they would go in buses, you know and they'd go to camp and we had church camps.

Dodson: But this was not true when you were in your teens.

Marie: But I'm sayin, now it is.

Lorraine: You know what they do at camp now? They stay up all night. That's what they do at big bear, they have an awful time with those kids at camp. There's another thing of discipline. Do

you do to any....

Paula: Well, when I did, when I was in the Methodist Church when we had MYS it was just upwardly to be...interruption.. And Methodist Church used the fellowship, MYS.

Dodson: Would you say that most of the residents of the valley go to church?

Marie: Oh, I think so.

Dodson: Originally, probably a greater percentage than they do now? Do you see a change?

Marie: Mrs. F.M. Wright, uh he was a big goer, one of the first that came to San Fernando Valley, a big rancher and uh they had a big citrus grove and she was one of the my first Sunday School teacher and uh I know pretty near all of them that went to church. They would drive in in their buggy to go to church. That was one of things of recreation.

Paula: Was there a, what was the churches that were here originally? That's what I would like to know, all of them were here?

Marie: Well, there wasn't the Methodist until...

Lorraine: Methodist and Presbyterian.

Marie: Yea, there were Catholic, I've go the pictures of them. The Catholic and Saint Simeon's and the Presbyterian were here.

Dodson: I imagine the Catholic Church here would have been very strong here because of the Mexican American population.

Marie: We have two of them here now, Saint Ferdinand's and Santa Rosa.

Lorraine: We have Saint Didicus, too.

Marie: Oh yes, up there, uh uh.

Dodson: Is any of the, are any of the present Catholic Church's, the building's old are they all new?

Marie: They're all new.

Lorraine: Saint Ferninand's is not new, is it?

Marie: Saint Ferninand's is the new one, that big building where the school is, is new. The Santa Rosa over on Workman.

Lorraine: On Workman Saint Ferninand's is the first one.

Marie: It is the first one, but it's a new building.

Lorraine: Oh yes, yes.

Marie: Except, they are all new buildings.

Dodson: That's what I was interested in whether any of the old buildings were still in there.

Marie: No, no. They're all there. The old Lopez Building down there.

Dodson: The Lopez Adobe?

Marie: Yes. I've been there many times as a child as I say I lived across the tracts. Some of my school mates lived there, in fact my sister married one of the Lopez sister's, you know Rowland Wilson, Dick Alexander was his cousin. So we used to go there quite alot. That's one of the oldest buildings. Of course they renovated that now.

Dodson: Well, are their very few old buildings left in San Fernando? That would go back to early 1900 or earlier than that, do you know?

Lorraine: Gee, since I think a the earthquake, I don't believe any of those...

Marie: What about that one down on uh Lazard down there that has all that brick a brack on it?

Lorraine: Where's that?

Marie: That big white two story house, there.

Marie: It's right you know where Judge Decker used to live?

Dodson: Were there some before the earthquake and it knocked them down or were they gone before the earthquake?

Lorraine: The old Shen (sp?) building, that would have been, that was done over